

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 ORM-02 DHA-02

VO-03 INSE-00 /062 W

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O 071941Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5605

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7540

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CASC, CI

SUBJECT: AMERICAN RELIGIOUS AND MIR TERRORISTS

REF: RYAN-POPPER TELCON

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELCON I REACHED FONMIN CARVAJAL ON PHONE TO SUGGEST THE ADVISABILITY OF GOC PRESS STATEMENT DESCRIBING FACTS RE PROSPECTIVE DEPARTURE OF THE THREE AMERICAN NUNS. I PUT IT IN TERMS OF AVOIDING SENSATIONAL AND DISTORTED REPORTING AND EDITORIAL CRITICISM, BUT HAD IN MIND EQUALLY THAT ONCE STATEMENT HAD BEEN ISSUED, GOC COULD NOT VERY WELL RENEGE ON THEIR AGREEMENT.

2. CARVAJAL SAW THE POINT, SOUNDED SYMPATHETIC, AND SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO AT ONCE. WE WILL CHECK THROUGH ANOTHER SOURCE LATER IN AFTERNOON TO SEE WHETHER GOC ACCEPTS IDEA.

3. I ALSO MENTIONED TO CARVAJAL CASE OF DETAINED HOLY CROSS FATHER WHELAN, FORMERLY AMERICAN AND NOW CHILEAN CITIZEN. TOLD HIM WE WERE GETTING STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE FATHER. SUGGESTED THAT, WHILE THIS CASE OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT AND PERHAPS MORE DIFFICULT, GOC MIGHT

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FIND IT DESIRABLE TO ALLOW HIM ALSO TO LEAVE COUNTRY. SAID

THAT IF THIS WERE SO, I WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT
ADMITTING HIM TO US. WE AGREED WE MIGHT REVERT TO THIS
PROBLEM AS SOON AS WE HAD TAKEN CARE OF THE THREE NUNS AND
FATHER DEVLIN. AS TO LATTER, I TOLD CARVAJAL WE HAD NOT YET
BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE HIM.

4. IF FATHER WHELAN CAN BE RELEASED, I HOPE IT WILL BE
POSSIBLE TO GET HIM INTO US THROUGH OUR PAROLE PROGRAM. TO
DO THIS QUICKLY WOULD INVOLVE HAVING GOC ISSUE AN EXILE
DECREE WHILE STILL DETAINING HIM; WE ON OUR SIDE WOULD HAVE
TO CUT BOLDLY THROUGH A LOT OF RED TAPE AND SEND HIM OFF
AS A PAROLEE BEFORE THE MOMENTUM WERE LOST. WOULD APPRECIATE
WASHINGTON REACTION.
POPPER

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